



# 2015 REPORT

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The California Tahoe Conservancy meets its mission by implementing projects, acquiring sensitive lands, and supporting and collaborating with our partners. I'm continually impressed

by the diversity of roles the Conservancy plays in the Basin, as a valuable ally and strategic leader on restoration and public access projects throughout the Basin.

Protecting the lake is not accomplished by one agency or organization by itself. This is what makes Lake Tahoe unique. Together, we are making progress at Lake Tahoe. I look forward to another year of working collectively to accomplish our common goals.

Sincerely,

Larry Sevison  
California Tahoe Conservancy Chair

## OUR MISSION

To lead California's efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- **AUTHORIZED** more than \$4 million in restoration, recreation, forest health, and land management projects
- **COMPLETED** first phase of South Tahoe Greenway bike and pedestrian trail and secured nearly \$2 million in funding for construction of next sections
- **PARTICIPATED** in collaborative effort to update Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation Strategy, which resulted in removal of Tahoe Yellow Cress as a "candidate" species for the Federal endangered species list
- **ACQUIRED** and demolished old buildings in environmentally sensitive areas and plan to bank development rights under Tahoe Livable Communities Program
- **ANNOUNCED** Proposition 1 grant program with up to \$14 million for multi-benefit watershed protection and restoration projects
- **FUNDED** development and completion of Basin-wide Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Implementation Plan

### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Placer County

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Resources Agency

KAREN FINN  
Department of Finance

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U.S. Forest Service (Ex-Officio)

PATRICK WRIGHT,  
Executive Director

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## ECOSYSTEM AND WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

The Conservancy implemented and funded high priority watershed restoration, stormwater, and AIS projects and plans this year. Conservancy projects and investments restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, improve water quality, remove invasive species, and increase carbon sequestration.

### 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Final environmental document for Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project (Conservancy)
- ✓ Final AIS Implementation Plan (Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD)/University of Nevada, Reno)
- ✓ Lake Tahoe Boulevard Erosion Control and SEZ Enhancement Project (El Dorado County)
- ✓ Tahoe Hills Erosion Control Project (El Dorado County)
- ✓ Alpine Meadows Service Road BMPs and Stormwater Project (Alpine Meadows Ski Resort)
- ✓ Aquatic invasive plant removal and nonnative warmwater fish monitoring and control projects (TRCD)



- ✓ Lake Forest Water Quality Improvement Project – Panorama (Placer County)

### PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Post-project monitoring at Blackwood Creek and Lake Forest (Conservancy)
- Sierra Tract Erosion Control Project Phases 3/4 (City of South Lake Tahoe)

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**27.2 miles** of roads decommissioned or retrofitted

**1.12 acres** of SEZ restored or enhanced

**1.5 acres** treated for invasive species

**11,154** nonnative warmwater fish removed by electroshocking

## RECREATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

The Conservancy constructed and granted funding for key additions to the Basin's bike trail network that opened in 2015. Conservancy-funded planning efforts lay the groundwork for future recreation and public access projects.

### 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Planning grant to improve recreational facilities at Kings Beach State Recreation Area, including reconstruction of the Kings Beach Pier (California State Parks)
- ✓ Conceptual designs for a future public access project at Lakeview Lookout property (Conservancy)
- ✓ Sawmill II Bike Trail and Erosion Control Project (El Dorado County)



- ✓ South Tahoe Greenway Phase 1a (Conservancy)
- ✓ Planning and outreach for Lake Tahoe Water Trail (Sierra Business Council)
- ✓ Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail Acquisition (Placer County)

### PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- South Tahoe Greenway Phases 1b & 2 (Conservancy)

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**1.72 miles** of trail completed



## FOREST HEALTH ENHANCEMENT

The Conservancy completed several fuels reduction, forest health, and aspen restoration projects this year. The Conservancy collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies through the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team to identify and complete high priority fuels reduction and forest health projects throughout the Basin.

### 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Snow Creek Aspen Restoration and Forest Treatment (Conservancy)
- ✓ Barbara/Lodi Fuels and Forest Health Treatment (Conservancy)
- ✓ Fairway/Bunker (Conservancy/North Tahoe Fire Protection District)
- ✓ Talmont 3 (Conservancy)
- ✓ Angora Highlands (Conservancy)
- ✓ Sunset (Conservancy)
- ✓ City of South Lake Tahoe Airport (Lake Valley Fire Protection District/City of South Lake Tahoe)



### PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Sunset Aspen (Conservancy)
- Sunset South (Conservancy/California Conservation Corps)

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**125 acres** treated – upland

**23 acres** treated – riparian

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Conservancy acquired or improved two sensitive parcels under the Tahoe Livable Communities program this year. Once restoration is complete, the impervious coverage and development rights will be transferred to projects located in town centers.

### 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Demolished and stabilized the “Smoke Shop” parcel near the “Y” in South Lake Tahoe (Conservancy)
- ✓ Acquired an aging apartment building on sensitive land in El Dorado County (Conservancy)

### PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project (Placer County)

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**17,022 sq ft** impervious coverage acquired



## LAND MANAGEMENT

The Conservancy maintains and inspects over 4,700 parcels on the California side of the Basin. We protect these lands by restoring stream zones, removing hazard trees, thinning overgrown forests, building and repairing fences, and revegetating degraded areas.

### 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Montgomery Estates Community Watershed Erosion Control Project (TRCD, El Dorado County, Conservancy)
- ✓ Eagle Rock and Van Sickle trail improvements (TRCD, Conservancy)
- ✓ Invasive plant removal and tree planting along Upper Truckee River (TRCD, Conservancy)
- ✓ Sensitive habitat protection at Moon Dunes beach (TRCD, Conservancy)



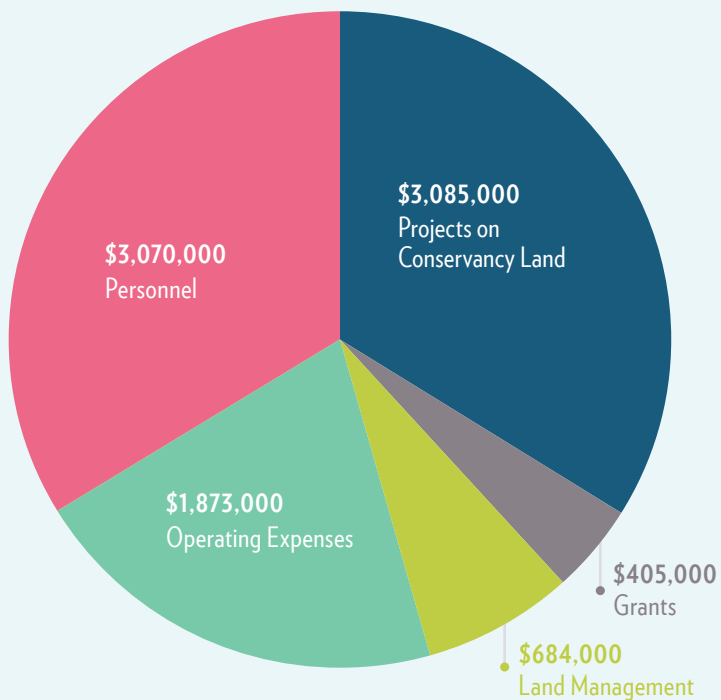
#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**2,365 properties** inspected  
**147 citizen reports** addressed  
**160 hazard trees** removed

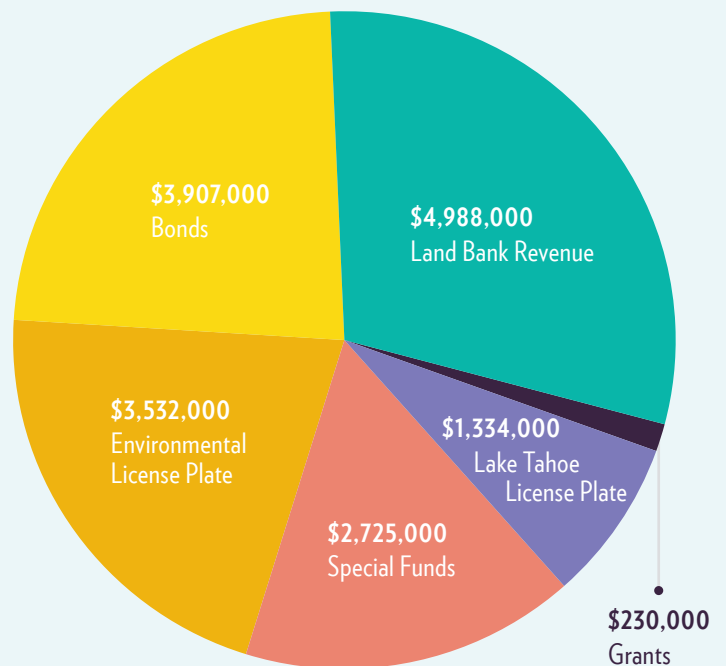
**30 restoration projects** completed

**116 maintenance projects** implemented

#### FY 2014-15 EXPENDITURES



#### FY 2014-15 FUNDING SOURCES



### CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

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